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# Message Text

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PAGE 01 TOKYO 03927 100922Z
ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 ISO-00 AGRE-00 CIAE-00 COME-00
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P 100831Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO
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PASS STR ELECTRONICALLY AND AGRICULTURE

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EAGR, JA, OVIP
SUBJECT: VISIT OF MAF SENIOR COUNSELOR YOSHIOKA

REF: TOKYO 3305

1. SUMMARY. IN WASHINGTON DISCUSSIONS MARCH 13 YOSHIOKA WILL URGE RENEWAL OF U.S.-JAPAN GRAIN UNDERSTANDING AND WILL LINK THIS WITH JAPANESE POSITION ON FEEDGRAINS IN INTERNATIONAL WHEAT AGREEMENT NEGOTIATIONS, WILL BORE IN ON U.S. GOALS IN MTN VIS-A-VIS BEEF, ELICIT U.S. VIEWS ON GRAIN STORAGE IN U.S., AND RAISE POSSIBILITY OF VISIT BY MINAG NAKAGAWA.

2. IN MEETING WITH AGATT MAR. 9 YOSHIOKA PROVIDED SOME ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON SUBJECTS HE WISHES DISCUSS DURING VISIT TO USDA MARCH 13. HE ALSO NOTED HE HOPES TO SEE DEPUTY STR WOLFF.

3. YOSHIOKA SAID JAPAN STRONGLY DESIRES RENEWAL OF U.S.-JAPAN GRAINS UNDERSTANDING AND THAT THEY PREFER CURRENT FLEXIBLE AND NON-BINDING FORMAT TO A MORE FORMAL TYPE OF BILATERAL. THEY PRESUME U.S. WILL INSIST ON INCREASE IN QUANTITIES MENTIONED
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PAGE 02 TOKYO 03927 100922Z

IN UNDERSTANDING IF IT IS TO BE RENEWED. BECAUSE OF RICE SURPLUS PROBLEM THEY CANNOT OFFER INCREASE IN WHEAT IMPORTS AND ARE CONCERNED ABOUT U.S. REACTION TO THIS. HOWEVER, THEY COULD INCREASE FEEDGRAIN QUANTITIES AND HOPE THIS WILL BE SUFFICIENT TO PERSUADE US TO RENEW UNDERSTANDING.

4. JAPANESE POSITION ON INTERNATIONAL FEEDGRAIN AGREEMENT AS

Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

PART OF CURRENT GENEVA GRAIN NEGOTIATIONS IS NOT AS FIRM AS IT MAY APPEAR. IN THE END, THEY COULD ACCEPT U.S. POSITION BUT WISH TO AVOID EXPLICIT SUPPORT NOW OR LATER. THEIR KEY GOAL REMAINS SECURITY OF ACCESS TO SUPPLY AND SOME DEGREE OF STABILIZATION. YOSHIOKA LINKED RENEWAL OF THE U.S.-JAPAN BILATERAL WITH THEIR POSITION IN GENEVA AND INDICATED THE BILATERAL WOULD BE SUFFICIENT FOR THEM IN FEEDGRAINS AREA.

5. YOSHIOKA WILL WANT CLEAR INDICATIONS OF OUR INTENTIONS IN M MTN WITH RESPECT TO BEEF. THEY HOPE THAT WE CAN BE SATISFIED FOR THE PRESENT WITH THE STRAUSS/USHIBA PACKAGE AND THAT NO MORE WILL BE REQUESTED IN GENEVA.

6. ALL FOOD AGENCY OFFICIALS ARE OPPOSED TO STORAGE OF JAPANESE RESERVES IN U.S. AND SERIOUS CONSIDERATION BEING GIVEN TO INCREASING STORAGE CAPACITY WITHIN JAPAN.

7. MINAG NAKAGAWA VERY MUCH DESIRES VISIT U.S. IF IT CAN BE SUCCESSFUL IN DOMESTIC JAPANESE POLITICAL TERMS. ONE POSSIBLE SCENARIO MIGHT BE VISIT FOR CONCLUSION RENEWAL OF GRAINS UNDERSTANDING WITH EVIDENCE IN HAND THAT NECESSARY STEPS HAD BEEN TO REALIZE STRAUSS/USHIBA PACKAGE AND RETURN TO JAPAN WITH U.S. ASSURANCES THAT U.S. SATISFIED FOR THE NEAR FUTURE.
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# Message Attributes

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20 Mar 2014
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